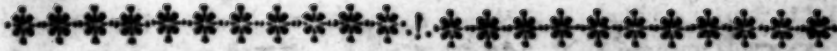


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A

S C H E M E

For ESTABLISHING

County Poor-Houses.

By Dr. Woodward.



1768

SCOTT & BOWNE



PRINTED BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

COUNTRY BOOKS

A
S C H E M E
For ESTABLISHING
County Poor-Houses,
IN THE
K I N G D O M
O F
I R E L A N D.

Published by Order of the DUBLIN SOCIETY.

The SECOND EDITION.

D U B L I N:
Printed by S. POWELL, Printer to the SOCIETY,
M D C C L X V I I I.

A
SCHEME

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S C H E M E

For ESTABLISHING

County POOR-HOUSES, in *I R E L A N D.*

General Considerations in Favour of a STATED PROVISION for the POOR.

I. Of Natural Equity.

1. **T**HE Poor being restrained by Law from exerting many of the Rights of a State of Nature, for the Support of Life itself, should be provided by Law with a Subsistence in Time of Distress.

2. A Subsistence from Alms, even if such a Subsistence could be depended upon, must be inequitably levied; for, it must arise either (as at present in this Kingdom) from the Sympathy of Wretches almost as poor as those whom they relieve, or from the Bounty of the Considerate and Compassionate among the Rich. The Thoughtless, the Unfeeling, and the Absentee, contribute Nothing.

3. Relief from accidental Alms must of Necessity be distributed unequally; not only to different Persons in various Situations, but also to the same Object at

different Times. Alms do not increase in a regular Proportion to the Distressed; but rather in Proportion to the Vicinity of some charitable rich Man. And some Calamities of a singular Nature, by engaging the Attention of the Publick, have drawn more than their Share of its Bounty.

4. The clamorous Impostor will too frequently gain the Alms due to real Distress.

II. Of Humanity.

For it is a melancholy Truth, that the Poor of Country Parishes, distant from the Metropolis, are not competently provided with Raiment, or even Food in Time of Scarcity, nor the Sick with Medicines at any Time.

III. Of Policy.

1. Care of the Sick increases the Number of People.

2. The Employment of the Aged and Maimed (who must otherwise spend their whole Time in Begging or Stealing) in Labours suited to their Faculties and Strength; increases the Aggregate of National Industry, and the Security of Property: And the more so, as

3. A Provision for the Industrious Poor renders the Suppression of Vagrants practicable; which cannot be effected until Receptacles are provided for real Objects, who are not distinguishable from Impostors at first Sight.

As the Legislature hath already made some Provision by the Charter-Schools, for the Children of the Poor, all Considerations relative to them are omitted; the Object of this Scheme being to found in each County a Poor-House which may contain, 1. An Hospital, for Aged and Disabled Poor. 2. An Infirmary, for the Sick. 3. A House of Correction, for Vagrant Beggars.

Plan

Plan of the POOR-HOUSES.

As no Provision hath been hitherto made for the Poor of Country Parishes sufficiently regular to ascertain their Number, the Extent of these Charities must be fixed by a Conjecture, in some Degree; arbitrary. If it be above the Number of real Objects, the Expence will be diminished; if beneath, the Necessity of them will be increased, in the same Proportion. But as some Limit must be fixed, in order to form a Calculation of the Expence, we may assume that it will be sufficient (in Aid of the Parochial Collections in Places of Divine Worship) to establish

A POOR-HOUSE (in, or near, each County Town) containing;

1. An Hospital with 50 Beds, for 100 Paupers.
2. An Infirmary with 10 Beds, for 10 Sick (in those Counties where no Hospital for the Sick is already erected.)
3. A House of Correction, for Vagrant Beggars.

The Numbers here assumed are to be considered as Average Numbers for all the Counties in the Kingdom; as the Size of each House must be proportioned to the Extent and Populousness of the County.

Adjoining to the House, there should be Land enough for grazing a few Cows, for Milk for the Sick, and raising Potatoes for the Family, except where they can be purchased on cheaper Terms.

The Poor who are able to do any Work, may be employed (as local Circumstances shall determine) in the Linen or coarse Woollen Manufactures, knitting Stockings, making Fishing Nets, picking Oakum, and (as they will be composed of various Artificers) in

making and mending for the Family. The Vagrants should be kept close to some laborious Work, that may be also useful.

The only OFFICERS requisite for the House will be,

1. The Master; who should be (if such can be procured) a Person conversant in the Manufacture fittest for that House.

2. The Matron.

3. A Clerk to methodize the Accounts of the Household Expences, and Labour of the Poor.

But the *English* School-Master of the Town, or some other Person skilful in Accounts may be called in occasionally, to do this for a small Gratuity.

The Household Work and Attendance on the Sick may be easily done by the Paupers. It is hoped too, that the neighbouring Physician or Surgeon, would give their Advice to the Sick *Gratis*; and it cannot be doubted but the Minister of the Parish will readily contribute his Assistance to this good Work by visiting them. A proper Form for daily Prayer may be read by the Master.

The GOVERNMENT of the Poor-House should reside in,

1. A President or Presidents; who may be the Governor or Governors of the County.

2. Two Vice-Presidents; who may be the Lord Bishop of the Diocese in which the House is erected, and the High Sheriff of the County.

3. Governors; who may be,

1. The Gentlemen of the Grand-Jury; to remain 'till another is impannel'd.

2. Sub-

2. Subscribers of 'Twenty Guineas' at once, who should be Governors for Life; or of Two Guineas *per Annum*, who should be Governors during such Subscription.

Ladies who subscribe as above, to have the same Privileges, and to vote by Proxy, if they do not like to attend the Boards.

The Governors may hold a Board every Month, to examine the Accounts and State of the Charity, receive the Returns of the Visitors, and give Orders on the Treasurer: One in every Half Year, to Audit the Treasurer's Accounts; and One every Year, to Elect the Visitors and Treasurer.

4. Six Visitors, Three Gentlemen and Three Ladies; one or more of whom may visit the House every Week, and examine the Detail of the Management of it; the State of the Buildings, Furniture, Farm, Provisions, &c. and to hear Complaints (if any be) against the Master or Matron. They should make a Monthly Return to the Board of Governors.

The Propriety of associating Ladies in this Department is obvious. But if any Proof were necessary, the *Dublin WORK-HOUSE* affords an extraordinary Instance of the Effect of it in a Lady, who does Honour to her Sex.

5. A Treasurer; who should be a Governor by his Office.

Of the Right of Admission.

Let every Pauper residing in the County be intitled to resort to the Poor-House for Relief; and every Beggar be liable to be sent thither (as the Children of Beggars are to the next Charter School) by any Magistrate, Governor of the Poor-House or Parish Officer. The Expence of conveying the latter, to be paid by the Master, at the Rate of *per Mile*, for those who are able to walk, and *per Mile*,

Mile, for the Infirm. The Paupers should have a Badge on their Cloaths, which, as it will prove that they are of the Class of Industrious Poor, instead of a Disgrace, will be rather a Mark of Honour. The Vagrants should be punished with hard Labour for one Week, the first Time they are committed, and may be marked on the Back of the Right Arm in Gunpowder (as the Children of the Foundling Hospital are marked) with the Letter V. By this Method, their Reproach may be concealed by their Cloaths, if they shall return to honest Labour, and yet they shall be known, if sent a second Time to the House of Correction. If they be taken a second Time begging, they should be sent again, whipped, and condemned to one Month's hard Labour, and mark'd with the Figure II. The third Time they are taken, they should be condemned to one Month's hard Labour, and be whipped twice every Week, *i. e.* eight Times in all, and marked with the Figure III. The fourth Time they are detected begging, they should be sent to the Common Gaol, and transported as Vagabonds, by Presentment of the Grand Jury; which Presentment shall not be defeated by any Security offered, or Settlement pretended.

Calculation of the Expence.

I. Of the first Establishment

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
To Building the House	700	0	0
Furniture	200	0	0
Total	900	0	0

As this Expence, though considerable, is a temporary one, it is not necessary to suggest any permanent Fund for it. The Wisdom of Parliament will have Recourse to the most proper one, and perhaps never patronized any Charity, or other publick Establishment, more deserving of a National Bounty. This too might bear a Proportion to the Benefactions contributed for this Purpose

Purpose in each County. (A Measure adopted with good Effect in *England*, by the Trustees of the Fund for augmenting Small Livings, called *Queen Ann's Bounty*.) And in those Counties where such a Contribution was not immediately set on Foot, Houses and Land might be rented for these Purposes, 'till proper Buildings could be erected; and perhaps this might be done at first in every County by Way of Experiment.

II. Annual Expences.

As the Design of this Charity is to provide for the Helpless, only the same Kind of Subsistence which the Industrious can earn by the meanest Labour, it is imagined, that the following Estimate will be sufficiently high.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
To the Maintenance of 100 Paupers at 4 <i>l.</i> a Head, exclusive of half their Labour. —————	400	0	0
To 10 Sick, at 10 <i>l.</i> —————	100	0	0
Salaries to the Master and Mistress, and half the Produce of the La- bour of the Paupers. —————	30	0	0
Gratuity to the Clerk, and Sundries. —————	10	0	0
Repairs of the House. —————	10	0	0
Total. —————	550	0	0

For the Support of which are sug-
gested the following Funds.

I. Voluntary Subscription.

Now though we must be somewhat arbitrary in as-
signing a particular Sum, yet considering the Opulence
and Benevolence of the Gentry and Clergy of this
Kingdom; the Sums now almost wasted in occasional
Alms; the Necessity of such an Establishment for the
Honour

Honour of the Kingdom, and the Amount of Subscriptions to some County Hospitals for the Sick, erected of late, which makes but a Part of this extensive Plan: We may presume that each County will afford an annual Subscription to the Amount of £. 150 00 0

II. Some Taxes to be appropriated to this Charity.

[As that on Hawkers and Pedlars to the Incorporated Charter-School Society.]

1. On each Pack of Hounds, — 5 l. (to cover all Dogs kept by one Gentleman). <i>Suppose 5 per County.</i>	25	00	0
2. On each Spaniel, Greyhound, or other sporting Dog, — 5 s. <i>Suppose only 6 in each Parish.</i>	105	00	0
3. On every other Dog, — 1 s. <i>Suppose one in two Houses.</i>	312	10	0
Total Income (Subscriptions included)	592	10	0
Total Expence.	550	00	0
Redundancy.	42	10	0

Upon this Calculation there would be a Surplus amounting to 42l. 10s. but as the Funds are in some Degree Conjectural, and the Expence must be provided for with Certainty, it would be expedient to lodge

III. A Power in the Grand Juries, to lay a Cess on their respective Counties, if any should be wanted, in Aid of the above-mentioned Funds.

And it is submitted whether they should not be invested with a further Power of Taxing all Proprietors of Land, who are above one Year absent from the Kingdom,

Kingdom, and who are not Governors of the County Poor-House by Subscription, in the same Sum which the Occupiers of their Lands are cessed for those Estates.

Considerations in Favour of the Plan, and the Funds assigned for the Support of it.

I. Of the Plan.

1. By blending an Hospital, Infirmary, and House of Correction, into one Establishment, any supposed Number of Poor will be maintained at a smaller Expence.

1. By buying Food, Cloaths, and Fewel cheaper.

2. By employing fewer Officers or Servants.

3. By rendering their Labour a more considerable Object.

2. As these Houses are to be open to the whole County, all Pretence for Begging will be taken away, and every Beggar may (and it is presumed will) be sent thither; where after proper Examination, he will be determined to the Hospital, Infirmary, or House of Correction, as his Case may want, or deserve.

3. It cannot be apprehended, that the Idle, or the Counterfeit will resort to such Establishment.

4. The Division of the Government of it between Persons of such a Rank and Figure, as will command Respect, and those who by their Contributions prove their Wishes for its Success, seems calculated to secure a good Administration of it.

II. Of the Funds ; from,

1. Voluntary Subscription, which at the same Time, that it raises Money without Complaint, secures the Attention of the Contributors to the Administration of the Charity.

2. Taxes on such Things as a good Police would aim to discourage. These are not liable to reasonable Exception, because

1. They are incurred voluntarily.

2. The Tax on Dogs of Sport, must be levied, either on the Rich, who ought to contribute chearfully to the Poor, or on those whose Time should be employed more profitably to their Families and Country.

3. The Frivolousness of the Amusements thus taxed, contrasted with the Importance and Benevolence of the Object for which they are taxed, illustrates in the clearest Manner the Reasonableness of that Fund.

4. The Tax on Cabbin Curs, cannot be thought severe in this Instance, as it tends either to remove from the Poor a burthensome Article of Expence, or to raise a Fund for their Support in Time of Need.

5. Each Article is calculated to do Good, either by suppressing an idle Extravagance, or by raising Money for a valuable Purpose, and at the same Time, depending much on the Number of Inhabitants, will increase in Proportion to the necessary Size and Expence of the Poor-House.

It is to be presumed, that if the Legislature should think proper to take a Scheme of this Tendency into Consideration, many other Funds of a like Nature will be found by the Wisdom of Parliament ; so that after a short Trial, there can be no Necessity of recurring to the

3. Or Supplemental Fund, A County Cefs.

But 'till that may safely be withdrawn, it may be said in Favour of that proposed;

1. The Grand Jury being appointed Governors of the Poor-House, will be acquainted with its real Wants.

2. A small Attempt is made to tax Absentees, who at present contribute nothing to Government for the Protection of their Property to Society, by taking a Share in its Offices, or to the Poor, by Employment or Alms. Those Absentees who are Governors by Subscription, are exempted from the County Cefs proposed.

The E N D.

Of Supplemental Fund, A County Cels.

all will that may likely be withdrawn, it may be
and in view of that proposed;

1. The Grand Jury being appointed Gover-
nor of the Poor House, will be acquainted
with the real wants.

2. A total Attempt is made to tax Aban-
tees, who at present contribute nothing to Go-
vernment for the Protection of their Property
to Society, by taking a Share in its Office, or
to the Poor House or Alms. Those
Applicants who are now by Subscription,
are exempted from the County Cels proposed.

6 DE 58

The E. N. D.

